

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer system for assisting a medical practitioner, comprising:

~~medical practitioner input means for receiving new patient data regarding a patient, a medical practitioner diagnosis regarding the patient, and a medical practitioner treatment plan for the patient from a medical practitioner;~~

~~[[first]] means for accessing a standard diagnosis database to obtain standard diagnosis criteria corresponding to the medical practitioner diagnosis input by the medical practitioner, with the new patient data including information related to said criteria, the standard diagnosis criteria identifying standard criteria for deriving [[the]] a suggested diagnosis input by the medical practitioner; for comparing the diagnosis and the treatment plan against the new patient data, known patient data and known medical information; and for generating an alarm in response to the comparison if the diagnosis or treatment plan seems inappropriate; [[and]]~~

~~means for retrieving the suggested diagnosis from the standard diagnosis database;~~

~~means for comparing the medical practitioner diagnosis with the suggested diagnosis and for generating an alarm if there is a difference; and~~

~~second means for communicating the diagnosis criteria and [[any]] the alarm to the medical practitioner, thereby enabling the physician medical practitioner to retrospectively consider the appropriateness of the diagnosis or treatment plan.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the ~~first means comprises means for retrieving obtains the suggested diagnosis based upon the new patient data~~

~~a suggest diagnosis means for accessing a suggested diagnosis database to retrieve a suggested diagnosis based on at least a portion of the new patient data; and~~

~~a check diagnosis means for comparing the diagnosis to the suggested diagnosis and for generating an alarm if there is a substantial difference.~~

3. Cancelled

4. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the medical practitioner treatment plan includes a prescription and the [[first]] means for receiving further comprises:

a get drug data means for retrieving from a pharmacy one or more drugs in the prescription for the patient and from the known patient data identification of drugs that the patient is taking; and

an interaction checking means for accessing a drug interaction database with (a) the one or more drugs in the prescription for the patient, (b) the drugs that the patient is taking, and (c) the prescription, to produce an alarm if there is an indication of an interaction.

5. (Original) The computer system of claim 4 wherein the interaction checking means comprises

mitigating means for suggesting methods to mitigate the interaction; and

alternative recommendation means for suggesting alternative drugs with no interaction.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the [[first]] means for receiving further comprises:

a get patient data means for retrieving the known patient data; and

a find treatment means for accessing a treatment protocol database and using a subset of the new patient data and a subset of the known patient data to determine a recommended treatment protocol.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the [[first]] means for receiving further comprises:

a get patient data means for retrieving the known patient data; and

a treatment search means for accessing a treatment recommendation database and using a subset of the new patient data and a subset of the known patient data to determine a treatment individualization recommendation.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the medical practitioner treatment plan comprises a prescription and the [[first]] means for receiving further comprises:
a get lab data means for obtaining laboratory results for the patient from a laboratory; and
a find dosage means for using the laboratory results, a subset of the known patient data, the prescription and the new patient data in cooperation with a recommended dosage database to produce a recommended dosage for the prescription.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the medical practitioner treatment plan comprises a prescription and the [[first]] means for receiving further comprises:
a get drug data means for retrieving from a pharmacy one or more drugs prescribed for the patient and from the known patient data identification of drugs that the patient is taking and foods the patient typically eats; and
an interaction checking means for accessing a drug/food interaction database with (a) the one or more drugs prescribed for the patient, (b) the drugs that the patient is taking, (c) the prescription and (d) the foods the patient typically eats, to produce an alarm if there is an indication of an interaction.

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 9 wherein the interaction checking means includes a recommendation means for recommending a drug that will not have an interaction.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the medical practitioner treatment plan comprises a prescription and radiology tests and the [[first]] means for receiving further comprises:
a get drug data means for retrieving from a pharmacy one or more drugs prescribed for the patient and from the known patient data identification of drugs that the patient is taking; and
an X-ray compatibility checking means for accessing a radiology/drug interaction database with (a) the one or more drugs prescribed for the patient, (b) the drugs that the patient is taking, (c) the prescription and (d) the radiology tests from the medical practitioner treatment plan, to produce an alarm if there is an indication of an interaction.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the medical practitioner treatment plan comprises an order for X-rays and the [[first]] means for receiving further comprises a check X-rays means for obtaining laboratory results from a laboratory and for accessing an X-ray contraindication database with the laboratory results and the order for X-rays to produce a contraindication and to process the contraindication to produce an alarm.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 12 wherein the check X-rays means processes the contraindication to produce a recommendation.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the medical practitioner treatment plan comprises a prescription and the [[first]] means for receiving further comprises:
a get drug data means for retrieving from a pharmacy one or more drugs prescribed for the patient and from the known patient data identification of drugs that the patient is taking; and
a drug cost means for accessing a drug cost database with (a) the one or more drugs prescribed for the patient, (b) the drugs that the patient is taking, and (c) the prescription, to produce an alarm if there is an indication that the patient is spending more on drugs than is necessary and to make a recommendation for a lower cost drug.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the [[first]] means for receiving further comprises a check risks means for accessing a risk database to produce a risk reduction recommendation for the patient.

16-22. Cancelled

23. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 further comprising a personal communicator including a display having:

a red alert area, where alarms regarding the potential for a major adverse effect are displayed; and

a yellow alert area, where alarms regarding the potential for a minor effect or need for closer monitoring are displayed.

24-29. Cancelled

30. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the [[first]] means for receiving has access to one or more of the following:

- a suggested diagnosis database;
- a standard diagnostic criteria database;
- a drug interaction database;
- a treatment protocol database;
- a treatment recommendation database;
- a recommended dosage database;
- a radiology/drug interaction database;
- an X-ray contraindication database;
- a drug cost database; and
- a risk database.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 further comprising an International Classification of Disease (ICD) determination means for processing a subset of the new patient data, a subset of the diagnosis and a subset of the medical practitioner treatment plan to determine an ICD.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the medical practitioner treatment plan comprises a prescription, an order, and an International Classification of Disease (ICD), and further comprising one or more of the following:

- a print prescription means for using the prescription to print a prescription form;
- an inform pharmacy means for using the prescription to inform a pharmacy of the prescription;
- a store data means for storing the new patient data on a hospital computer;
- an enter order means for entering the order in a physician order entry system; and
- a save ICD means for saving the ICD in a business office.

33. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for providing assistance to a medical practitioner, the method comprising:

receiving new patient data regarding a patient, a medical practitioner diagnosis regarding the patient, and a medical practitioner treatment plan for the patient from a medical practitioner by a personal communicator;

using a standard diagnosis criteria database to determine standard diagnosis criteria, the standard diagnosis criteria identifying standard criteria for deriving [[the]] a suggested diagnosis input by medical practitioner from the standard diagnosis criteria database;

comparing the new patient data, the diagnosis and the treatment plan against the new patient data, known patient data and against a medical database medical practitioner diagnosis with the suggested diagnosis;

generating an alarm to the medical practitioner in response to the comparison if comparing upon a determination that the medical practitioner diagnosis or the treatment plan seems inappropriate does not match the suggested diagnosis;

communicating the standard diagnosis criteria and [[any]] the alarm to the medical practitioner, thereby enabling the physician to retrospectively consider the appropriateness of the diagnosis or treatment plan; and

enabling, through the personal communicator, the following actions:

initiating implementation of the treatment plan;

and

allowing the medical practitioner to revise the diagnosis or treatment plan.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 further including enabling, through the personal communicator, the following actions initiating implementation of the medical practitioner treatment plan and allowing the medical practitioner to revise the diagnosis or the medical practitioner treatment plan wherein initiating implementation of the medical practitioner treatment plan comprises one or more of the following:

printing a prescription;

informing a pharmacy of the prescription;

storing the new patient data, the medical practitioner diagnosis, and the medical practitioner treatment plan on a hospital computer;

entering an order into a physician order entry system; and
saving an ICD in a business office.

35. Cancelled

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the step of comparing comprises performing one or more of the following actions:

checking the accuracy of the diagnosis;
reviewing standard diagnostic criteria;
checking the appropriateness of prescribed medication;
reviewing recommended treatment protocols;
reviewing individualization recommendations;
recommending dose adjustments;
checking for adverse medication interactions;
checking for adverse food interactions;
checking for adverse medication/radiology interactions;
checking for X-ray contraindications;
checking the cost of prescribed medications;
transferring clinical notes to medical records;
reviewing standard immunization protocols; and
recommending routine screening measures.

37. (Original) The method of claim 34 further comprising accepting clinical notes regarding the patient.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37 wherein accepting the clinical notes comprises recording a spoken rendering of the clinical notes.